



Finding A Lost Pet

STEPS TO TAKE IN FINDING YOUR LOST PET

1. **Search every nook and cranny of your house and grounds** on the chance that your pet has become caught or trapped or is sick or injured and hiding. *Do not assume they will meow or bark or come to you.* Cats especially are likely to hide
2. **Contact or come to our facility.** Often this is the first place people call when they have found an animal in their neighborhood. Ask that we keep a written record of your lost pet. **Also visit our website to check on our current guest's at:** <http://www.longbeach.gov/acs/finder/rescue/default.asp>.
3. **Comb the neighborhood on foot and by car.** Call your pet by name or make some familiar and attractive noise, like whistling, squeezing a squeak toy or shaking a can of treats. Remember that a frightened or injured animal will hide and may not come to you. Pause often and listen for your pet. Take along a photograph of your pet to show neighbors and people who know the area: letter carriers, meter readers, school bus drivers, joggers, neighborhood children. Most cats won't go too far, and are probably hiding close by. Go out after dark with a flashlight. Shine the flashlight into all hidden recesses and look for the distinctive reflection from cats' eyes.
4. **Consider setting a humane trap.** Inside cats that "escape" to the outdoors are very likely to be hiding close by. Their instinct when frightened is not to reveal themselves, so they will not meow or come to you. The only way to get them back may be to trap them. You can rent humane traps from Animal Care Services. They can also be purchased at pet stores, hardware stores and home centers. Bait with some strong-smelling food. Monitor trap often. If left overnight, do not be surprised if you catch a raccoon, opossum, or someone else's cat!
5. **Try to attract your pet back to the house;** leave strong scented articles outside like worn clothing with your scent still on it, your pet's bedding or mat or litter box, or some fragrant food, taking care that other animals don't eat it.



Department of Health and
Human Services



City of Long Beach
Animal Care Services Bureau
7700 E. Spring Street
Long Beach, CA 90815

Phone: (562) 570-PETS Fax: (562) 570-3053

www.longbeach.gov/acs



Finding A Lost Pet

STEPS TO TAKE IN FINDING YOUR LOST PET

1. **Search every nook and cranny of your house and grounds** on the chance that your pet has become caught or trapped or is sick or injured and hiding. *Do not assume they will meow or bark or come to you.* Cats especially are likely to hide
2. **Contact or come to our facility.** Often this is the first place people call when they have found an animal in their neighborhood. Ask that we keep a written record of your lost pet. **Also visit our website to check on our current guest's at:** <http://www.longbeach.gov/acs/finder/rescue/default.asp>.
3. **Comb the neighborhood on foot and by car.** Call your pet by name or make some familiar and attractive noise, like whistling, squeezing a squeak toy or shaking a can of treats. Remember that a frightened or injured animal will hide and may not come to you. Pause often and listen for your pet. Take along a photograph of your pet to show neighbors and people who know the area: letter carriers, meter readers, school bus drivers, joggers, neighborhood children. Most cats won't go too far, and are probably hiding close by. Go out after dark with a flashlight. Shine the flashlight into all hidden recesses and look for the distinctive reflection from cats' eyes.
4. **Consider setting a humane trap.** Inside cats that "escape" to the outdoors are very likely to be hiding close by. Their instinct when frightened is not to reveal themselves, so they will not meow or come to you. The only way to get them back may be to trap them. You can rent humane traps from Animal Care Services. They can also be purchased at pet stores, hardware stores and home centers. Bait with some strong-smelling food. Monitor trap often. If left overnight, do not be surprised if you catch a raccoon, opossum, or someone else's cat!
5. **Try to attract your pet back to the house;** leave strong scented articles outside like worn clothing with your scent still on it, your pet's bedding or mat or litter box, or some fragrant food, taking care that other animals don't eat it.



Department of Health and
Human Services



City of Long Beach
Animal Care Services Bureau
7700 E. Spring Street
Long Beach, CA 90815

Phone: (562) 570-PETS Fax: (562) 570-3053

www.longbeach.gov/acs



Finding A Lost Pet

STEPS TO TAKE IN FINDING YOUR LOST PET

1. **Search every nook and cranny of your house and grounds** on the chance that your pet has become caught or trapped or is sick or injured and hiding. *Do not assume they will meow or bark or come to you.* Cats especially are likely to hide
2. **Contact or come to our facility.** Often this is the first place people call when they have found an animal in their neighborhood. Ask that we keep a written record of your lost pet. **Also visit our website to check on our current guest's at:** <http://www.longbeach.gov/acs/finder/rescue/default.asp>.
3. **Comb the neighborhood on foot and by car.** Call your pet by name or make some familiar and attractive noise, like whistling, squeezing a squeak toy or shaking a can of treats. Remember that a frightened or injured animal will hide and may not come to you. Pause often and listen for your pet. Take along a photograph of your pet to show neighbors and people who know the area: letter carriers, meter readers, school bus drivers, joggers, neighborhood children. Most cats won't go too far, and are probably hiding close by. Go out after dark with a flashlight. Shine the flashlight into all hidden recesses and look for the distinctive reflection from cats' eyes.
4. **Consider setting a humane trap.** Inside cats that "escape" to the outdoors are very likely to be hiding close by. Their instinct when frightened is not to reveal themselves, so they will not meow or come to you. The only way to get them back may be to trap them. You can rent humane traps from Animal Care Services. They can also be purchased at pet stores, hardware stores and home centers. Bait with some strong-smelling food. Monitor trap often. If left overnight, do not be surprised if you catch a raccoon, opossum, or someone else's cat!
5. **Try to attract your pet back to the house;** leave strong scented articles outside like worn clothing with your scent still on it, your pet's bedding or mat or litter box, or some fragrant food, taking care that other animals don't eat it.



Department of Health and
Human Services



City of Long Beach
Animal Care Services Bureau
7700 E. Spring Street
Long Beach, CA 90815

Phone: (562) 570-PETS Fax: (562) 570-3053

www.longbeach.gov/acs

6. **Visit our facility and other surrounding facilities immediately** and return regularly. Animals surrendered to Animal Care Services are held for only a very limited time. However, if they are diseased or injured, they may be put down immediately. If they are wearing a current license tag, they may be held up to 14 days. It is necessary to visit our facility in person to see if your pet has been turned in. Bring a good photograph of your pet to leave with them, but do not depend on our staff to contact you. You really need to return regularly to look for yourself.

We emphasize that you must not assume that because you have left information about your missing pet that you will automatically be contacted if the animal is turned in. There are too many unwanted animals and too few facility staff to do this. It is up to you to check back regularly.

Do not assume that because your pet was wearing an identification tag, that you will be contacted. Collars may be removed or fall off. Having a **microchip** placed in your pets assures a speedy return.

7. **Call your neighborhood veterinarians.** People often leave lost and found reports with them or bring injured strays to them.
8. **Prepare a flyer with a picture or description of the animal, date lost, and how to contact you.** Be sure the letters are large and easily visible from a passing car. Have copies of your flyer made on light, bright colored paper. Include a photo if possible. In addition to printing and posting as many flyers as is practical, we recommend that you make a few special posters to use in the most strategic places.

Post the flyers in conspicuous places like utility poles, intersections, nearby schools, laundromats, community bulletin boards, vets offices, etc. Most lost pets are found fairly close to home, but many pets turn up miles away, so it is equally important to post the flyers at some major intersections in other parts of town. Dogs, especially may travel far on their own. Cats are sometimes "spirited off". It is also a good idea to hang the flyers from doorknobs in your neighborhood. Again, distribute them as widely as practical. (Please note that it is not allowed to put anything other than US mail in mailboxes.

9. **Place a classified ad in your local suburban papers and check the "found" ads.** Some papers run "Found" ads for free. Keep checking regularly for new ads, and ask how to research ads that have run previously by calling the paper.
10. **Check animal emergency clinics.** On the chance that your pet may have been struck by a car and brought for help by some kind person..
11. **Check reports Internet Lost and Found sites, including the [Animal Care Services](#) site.**

You must seek and spread information about the pet you have lost in as many ways as possible and you must go to the shelters. Only you can identify your pet.

Be wary of so-called "pet-finding" services that may contact you and offer to help find your pet for a fee!

DO NOT GIVE UP TOO SOON!

6. **Visit our facility and other surrounding facilities immediately** and return regularly. Animals surrendered to Animal Care Services are held for only a very limited time. However, if they are diseased or injured, they may be put down immediately. If they are wearing a current license tag, they may be held up to 14 days. It is necessary to visit our facility in person to see if your pet has been turned in. Bring a good photograph of your pet to leave with them, but do not depend on our staff to contact you. You really need to return regularly to look for yourself.

We emphasize that you must not assume that because you have left information about your missing pet that you will automatically be contacted if the animal is turned in. There are too many unwanted animals and too few facility staff to do this. It is up to you to check back regularly.

Do not assume that because your pet was wearing an identification tag, that you will be contacted. Collars may be removed or fall off. Having a **microchip** placed in your pets assures a speedy return.

7. **Call your neighborhood veterinarians.** People often leave lost and found reports with them or bring injured strays to them.
8. **Prepare a flyer with a picture or description of the animal, date lost, and how to contact you.** Be sure the letters are large and easily visible from a passing car. Have copies of your flyer made on light, bright colored paper. Include a photo if possible. In addition to printing and posting as many flyers as is practical, we recommend that you make a few special posters to use in the most strategic places.

Post the flyers in conspicuous places like utility poles, intersections, nearby schools, laundromats, community bulletin boards, vets offices, etc. Most lost pets are found fairly close to home, but many pets turn up miles away, so it is equally important to post the flyers at some major intersections in other parts of town. Dogs, especially may travel far on their own. Cats are sometimes "spirited off". It is also a good idea to hang the flyers from doorknobs in your neighborhood. Again, distribute them as widely as practical. (Please note that it is not allowed to put anything other than US mail in mailboxes.

9. **Place a classified ad in your local suburban papers and check the "found" ads.** Some papers run "Found" ads for free. Keep checking regularly for new ads, and ask how to research ads that have run previously by calling the paper.
10. **Check animal emergency clinics.** On the chance that your pet may have been struck by a car and brought for help by some kind person..
11. **Check reports Internet Lost and Found sites, including the [Animal Care Services](#) site.**

You must seek and spread information about the pet you have lost in as many ways as possible and you must go to the shelters. Only you can identify your pet.

Be wary of so-called "pet-finding" services that may contact you and offer to help find your pet for a fee!

DO NOT GIVE UP TOO SOON!

6. **Visit our facility and other surrounding facilities immediately** and return regularly. Animals surrendered to Animal Care Services are held for only a very limited time. However, if they are diseased or injured, they may be put down immediately. If they are wearing a current license tag, they may be held up to 14 days. It is necessary to visit our facility in person to see if your pet has been turned in. Bring a good photograph of your pet to leave with them, but do not depend on our staff to contact you. You really need to return regularly to look for yourself.

We emphasize that you must not assume that because you have left information about your missing pet that you will automatically be contacted if the animal is turned in. There are too many unwanted animals and too few facility staff to do this. It is up to you to check back regularly.

Do not assume that because your pet was wearing an identification tag, that you will be contacted. Collars may be removed or fall off. Having a **microchip** placed in your pets assures a speedy return.

7. **Call your neighborhood veterinarians.** People often leave lost and found reports with them or bring injured strays to them.
8. **Prepare a flyer with a picture or description of the animal, date lost, and how to contact you.** Be sure the letters are large and easily visible from a passing car. Have copies of your flyer made on light, bright colored paper. Include a photo if possible. In addition to printing and posting as many flyers as is practical, we recommend that you make a few special posters to use in the most strategic places.

Post the flyers in conspicuous places like utility poles, intersections, nearby schools, laundromats, community bulletin boards, vets offices, etc. Most lost pets are found fairly close to home, but many pets turn up miles away, so it is equally important to post the flyers at some major intersections in other parts of town. Dogs, especially may travel far on their own. Cats are sometimes "spirited off". It is also a good idea to hang the flyers from doorknobs in your neighborhood. Again, distribute them as widely as practical. (Please note that it is not allowed to put anything other than US mail in mailboxes.

9. **Place a classified ad in your local suburban papers and check the "found" ads.** Some papers run "Found" ads for free. Keep checking regularly for new ads, and ask how to research ads that have run previously by calling the paper.
10. **Check animal emergency clinics.** On the chance that your pet may have been struck by a car and brought for help by some kind person..
11. **Check reports Internet Lost and Found sites, including the [Animal Care Services](#) site.**

You must seek and spread information about the pet you have lost in as many ways as possible and you must go to the shelters. Only you can identify your pet.

Be wary of so-called "pet-finding" services that may contact you and offer to help find your pet for a fee!

DO NOT GIVE UP TOO SOON!